| Learning Conversation Notes | |
|--|---|
| Name of Partner: Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC) HomeFirst | Date: February 15, 2006 |
| Number of Children Served: 109 | Ages: 0 yr (11) 1 yr (25), 2 yr (23), 3 yr (17), 4 yr (15), 5 yr (18) |
| When Served: July 1, 2005 – January 31, 2006 | Gender: Ethnicity: 53 - Male 56 - Female 53 - Hispanic 43 - Caucasian 9 - Biracial 2 - African Amer. 2 - Native Amer. |

Conversation Participants: Nancy Baggett, Silvia Cobian, Elana Duewel, Gina Edens, Don Ferretti, Nicole Hayes, Heidi Kolbe, Diana Martin, Leticia Martinez, Kathleen Shenk, Sue Slagell, Carolynn Spezza, DeAnne Thornton, Suzanne Wood, Judy Marston (Facilitator), and Janice Critchlow (Recorder)

Outcomes:

- 1. Families served will have the knowledge, skills and resources to raise their children in healthy environments conducive to reaching appropriate developmental milestones.
- 2. To sustain the skills parents learn in the program, parents served will share their childhood development knowledge and developmentally appropriate parenting practices with other families of 0-5 children independent of HomeFirst staff.
- **3.** A homevisiting program will exist to serve children 0-5 and their families in the Kings Beach area.

Performance Measures:

- Demographics (number of 0-5 served by gender, age, ethnicity and when services were provided)
- CAPC HomeFirst will utilize the Early Childhood Outcomes Screening Form with each child served
- Photos and Stories relating to the outcomes
- Survey of parents who have participated in leadership training to capture how parents have sustained their skills beyond involvement in the program and have shared this knowledge with other parents
- Report on progress made in expanding homevisiting to the Kings Beach area
- Family case record will contain the required TCM documentation, which includes: 1.Comprehensive Individualized Needs Assessments, 2. Service Plans, 3. Encounter Logs and 4. Case notes.

What is this data telling us about achievement of outcomes?

Demographics

Ethnicity

Ethnic breakdown seems to be consistent with areas served. Roseville Family Resource Center (FRC) serves about 50% Hispanic and Rock Creek School in North Auburn is 49% Latino.

There could be a higher number of Hispanic families because they tend to stay in the program longer. Hispanic families tend to identify friends and family who can use the program – tend to refer. Also, Hispanic families may have children closer together in age.

Total number of children and families

Looks like fewer children – probably due to staff turnover. New staff have been hired. There is a waiting list of children. Training should go quickly because all new staff have a Bachelor's degree and extensive experience in early childhood education.

Seventy-five families have been served during this time period. Currently 57 families are being served and 18 families have left the program. There are 7 Home Visitors. Maximum of 15 families per Home Visitor. Capacity is 105 families when seeing each family once per week. Home Visitors are funded by AmeriCorps and First 5.

Reasons families left the HomeFirst Program – 18 families:

- 7 Lack of client contact (Often during a transition between Home Visitors. Could also indicate lack of response from the client.)
- 4 Moved from area
- 4 Client Request
- 2 Achieved goals
- 1 Entered alternative program

Photos and Stories relating to the outcomes

Story 1: Program is helping the child meet developmental milestones. Early ASQs were low but higher after the home visiting. Modeling of voice inflection by the Home Visitor helped the mom use inflection herself. Parent came back into program because she was aware she still had skills to learn.

Story 2: Parent was learning specific skills and retaining that knowledge independent of HomeFirst staff.

Parent Quote: Mom was also in a support group at the FRC and she wrote on the back of a form indicating that she was sharing information about the early childhood message and insurance options with other parents.

Leadership program: Four families on a continuing basis are doing activities such as:

Giving peer to peer information
Learning to facilitate groups
Translating important information from one language to another
Making phone calls to other parents
Scheduling activities for parenting groups

CAPC doesn't have a survey on these parent leaders (per performance measure #4). A survey was administered to all parents in the HomeFirst Program.

Participant Survey (see attachment):

Survey has been revised to address previous Learning Conversation. Questions are more open-ended. This change has helped responses relate better to the Outcomes.

Parents who have received at least 4 home visits were sent a survey. It was administered in January and, to date, 15 responses have been received.

Responses to Question 4 b: Do you feel you have the skills to continue these activities even after you are no longer in the HomeFirst program?

Speaks to Outcome 1 -- Most parents think they do have the skills to continue these activities even after they are no longer in the HomeFirst program. Three families said yes but requested additional support. One family did not feel confident yet.

Responses to Question 5: Has HomeFirst supported you in becoming more confident in your parenting knowledge?

Speaks to Outcome 1. All 15 indicated they were becoming more confident. Parents gave good examples of what they've actually learned.

Responses to Question 6: How have you shared parenting knowledge learned in HomeFirst with other parents?

- 11 have shared HomeFirst knowledge
- 4 parents haven't yet shared the information

Responses to Question 7: Are you interested in participating in more activities?

Just slightly over half of families want more activities – especially playgroups. Transportation is an issue. Even if family has a car, they might not be able to use it to get to other activities.

Challenge of anonymous surveys: hard to follow up with specific parents on their specific needs.

Early Childhood Outcomes Screening Form - Photos relating to the Outcomes

Number of children with first and last Outcome Screens is 76.

Outcome Tracker relates to Outcome 1. Majority of data is child related. Speaks about appropriate development and home environments that are safe and conducive to learning.

Process: The Home Visitor fills it out after going back to office, usually 2 weeks into the program. It's based on the day before the program started to get an accurate baseline. They are done every 6 months or at program exit.

Indicator 13: Participating in a learning environment with appropriate interactive enrichment activities

Fifty-six children improved between first and last screens. Fourteen children remained the same. Four children declined. This can happen when the family has a crisis and no longer is focusing on creating a learning environment. The Home Visitors <u>are</u> the learning environment.

Twelve children were at a 4 or 5 at first screen. This may be marked when the children are in Head Start or Early Head Start or parents are engaging their children, getting down on the floor with the children, and responding to their children – bonding, talking, etc.

For children who are at a 2 or 3 on Indicator 13 at last screen, CAPC does provide training for staff on how to support high-risk families not achieving this indicator and will continue to explore other strategies to achieve positive outcomes.

Indicator 17: Parent participating in a formal or informal support network for the family

Most of the families are achieving the indicator - 69% have shown improvement. There's a small group that remains isolated.

Speaks to sustainability – the first step in developing leadership skills is participating in groups. Some parents are almost silent at first.

What are the barriers for the parents at 3 (35 at first, 11 at last)? Hispanic families may be new to the county or country – they're basically isolated and don't know the resources. Often there are language or transportation barriers or there might be domestic violence in the home.

Indicator 8: Engages in unrestricted play time

Thirty-four children improved, 38 remained the same, and two declined. One child declined from a 5 to a 4 and one from a 4 to a 3. Most of the children being seen are achieving the indicator.

Indicator 20: Parent satisfied with their knowledge of and ability to foster the child's development

Sixty-five parents improved or stayed the same between first and last screens.

Even when parents are feeling confident, the children are growing and each stage brings new challenges.

Large portion of mothers lack self-confidence.

Some of the parents have had more children during program or have been reunited with children who had been in foster care.

Outcome 3

Kings Beach FRC is conducting home visits – it is not using the HomeFirst model. CAPC has offered technical assistance to KBFRC on home visiting programs. CAPC has provided joint training to KBFRC on the family support model and home visitor safety.

In what ways will we apply what we have learned from our data?

Families exiting the program:

Follow-up calls made to families who have left the program indicate that a change of home visitor may be the reason. These calls have encouraged the families to re-enter the program. Families need support and calls from supervisor during this time. The best hand-off is the exiting Home Visitor going to the family with the new Home Visitor but this can't always be achieved.

Transitional housing residents: These are very needy families. The home visiting program can positively affect these high-risk families; even short-term support can help dramatically. Staff thinks these partnerships with transitional housing programs are very important.

Indicator 17:

There's a small group that remains isolated. The Home Visitor may have a special role. Maybe there are other ways to connect parents, such as telephone calls or helping them meet their neighbors. Need ways to support families that have transportation problems or a controlling partner. For instance, in the past, a Home Visitor connected three moms within walking distance of each other. Two Home Visitors may connect families. The program will continue to expand opportunities for families to create a network for themselves.

Indicator 8:

Continue to reinforce to parents the value of unrestricted play.

Indicator 20:

Parents that feel they are satisfied with their knowledge may be the pool for the Leadership Training.

Other points that were made during the conversation:

Placer ARC has a free inclusive playgroup in Loomis. Home Visitors can refer families to this playgroup.

Next steps:

Demographics should be given by the number of children rather than the number of families. Also, First 5 needs to know whether they are duplicated or unduplicated.

If *Reasons Families Left the HomeFirst Program* will be discussed, it would be good to know the stories behind the statistics. How were goals achieved? What Alternate Program?

Data brought to the LC needs to be directly connected to performance measures mentioned in the Scope of Work (for example, survey of parents in leadership program).

Address the issue of how to survey the leadership parents to meet Performance Measure #4.

Outcome Screens: Need the overall screens and then hone in on individual indicators. Indicator #19 and Indicator #20 are good to compare with each other. Need to use specific cases represented in the data when discussing declines/improvements and positive/negative outcomes to link the data to specific cases (identified by case numbers). Continue to use Outcome Tracker to learn internally.

Next Learning Conversation: August 29, 1:00 – 4:30 pm